



Dear Parents & Carers,

The children had a very successful transition visit to their new classes on Tuesday. Teachers greeted their new classes & led them through some "getting to know you" activities in the morning and some arty/crafty activities in the afternoon.

Half of our Year 6 pupils visited Winton for their transition day too. On the 14<sup>th</sup> (our second whole-school transition day) the other half of Year 6 will visit Testbourne.

On Tuesday, I also had the joy of meeting our new families of children in next year's Early Years cohort, as they came for their *Stay & Play* session.

Getting transition right is really important to us, as it is so important for children to feel confident about their next class. For all children, we will be sending out social stories soon, which you can read over the summer with your children, as that "extra reminder" can be reassuring. In addition, I will be writing to our outgoing Year 6 pupils, one term into secondary school, asking whether we prepared them well enough for their next step in learning- and listening to any feedback they can give us.

Looking ahead, we have Sports Day on Tuesday. **Children are all to come in to school in their PE kit and House-coloured top.** Please come and watch Key Stage 1 & Early Years, who will have a carousel of activities in the morning and then we would love *all families* to bring a packed lunch to enjoy with your children. After lunch, children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 will go back in for their afternoon learning and Key Stage 2 will have their chance to shine & score points for their Houses. We have a Sports Day Cup too, which will be awarded to the winning house: **Air, Water, Fire or Earth**- who is going to win?

I look forward to seeing you all there!

Jim Cascarini – Headteacher

[headteacher@pilgrimscross.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@pilgrimscross.co.uk)

### Vision Awards

Congratulations to all our children who received a Vision Award this week...	Love	Courage	Trust
Oak		Ben S and Koby M	
Willow	Joshua T		
Sycamore		Landen L	
Maple		William B	
Hazel			Layton M
Lime		Skylar L	
Chestnut		Wilfred T	
Elm	Faith P		
Ash		Leah B	
Beech		Riley P	
Pine	Ruby B		
Hawthorn	Rebecca B		
Aspen	Spencer E		
Juniper	Jack F		

## What we have been learning this week...

### Willow & Oak

The start of the week was incredibly hot and so safety of the children was paramount to us. They could not explore the outside as much as we would have liked so we kept them in classes and under the cover within the courtyard area. The end of the week was much better so we made sure we used the amphitheatre as much as possible.

We have started to read the story of *Little Red Riding Hood* and how, with traditional tales, some of the stories had differences, even though they are the same story. From this we started to create maps, this was our main maths focus. Some children draw maps of their journey to school; others drew the journey that Little Red took going from her house to Grandma's house, including when she wandered off of the path.

In phonics we have been looking at plurals "s" and "es" and words ending in "ing". We have officially finished all of our teaching of new skills now so it will be reviewing sounds, words we have learnt to read, spellings and tricky words until the end of term.

We have also created minibeasts using playdough and trees using paper.

Finally, and most importantly, we had our first transition into Year One. The teachers have told us how amazing the children were, how engaged they were, how ready they are for year one and how wonderfully behaved they were.

We were bursting with pride about this and could not have been happier for a more glowing report. Well done Year R, we are glad everyone else can see how amazing you all are too!

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure

### Sycamore & Maple

What a busy week we have had! In English, we planned and wrote our diary entry of the *Great Explorer* from Tom's point of view. The children really showed off all of their Year 1 writing skills! In Maths, we have explored money and ended the week by role-playing shops and buying delicious cakes and cookies. In Computing, we used our Science knowledge to complete a branching database about minibeasts. PE has involved lots of sports day practise!

The children spent some time in their new classes and their new teachers commented on what a wonderful time they had! We are excited for sports day and the last two weeks of being Year 1's.

Miss Miners and Mrs Edgington

### Lime & Hazel

This week has been jam-packed! We started our week off looking at structures in music and creating our own rhythms to help retell the story of *George and the Dragon*. In Maths we've looked at tallies, tables, block diagrams and pictograms - making our own for each one! In English we've learnt about prepositions and compound words. Of course, we can't forget transition day! All of our current Year 2s were fantastic, enjoying time with their new class teachers and in their new classrooms. There was lots of excitement and we are very proud of how all the children have handled it! The rest of the week we finished our history by exploring how monarchs have changed, comparing William the Conqueror with our current King. In RE we learnt about the Alevi worldview and compared their Cimevi with other places of worship. In PSHE we talked about how important it is that we celebrate our differences and make sure everyone feels welcome and we're rounding out the week by doing some data input in Computing. We've spent this half term practicing our athletics skills and are looking forward to putting these into practice on Tuesday for Sports Day!

Miss Lavin and Miss Samuel

## Chestnut & Elm

The highlight for year 3 this week has absolutely been our Egyptian day, all day Monday.

We met Lauren Quinney, an expert on ancient Egypt, who told of the history of ancient Egypt and how the first pharaoh combined the two kingdoms of upper and lower Egypt. We acted out the role of different gods and goddesses, did a quiz, measured in ancient measurements of palms and cubits, translated some hieroglyphics, handled some artefacts including some that are over 3000 years old, learnt the story of Tutankhamun's life and the discovery of his tomb, crowned a new pharaoh, who then only went and died, so we had to mummify him.

It was an amazing, fun-filled day full of learning and slightly gruesome activities.

Miss Dewsbury and Mr Spiers



## **Beech & Ash**

Another week has flown by: we're nearly there! We had a successful transition day and were very proud of the courage all the children showed in moving up to their new classes. In maths, we've been going over questions from the tests that challenged us and unpicking how to answer problem-solving questions. In English we've been learning about subordinating conjunctions, perfect present tense and how to use a possessive apostrophe. We have started our science learning journey where we have planned an experiment to test whether the viscosity of different liquids affects the speed liquids can travel. In PE we tried out some of the different sports for sports day. Our RE learning was about praying in other languages and the children have explored why people from different faiths pray in a traditional language rather than the language they speak every day. The children have worked incredibly hard in this heat and we remain constantly impressed by their dedication to learning.

Miss Collier and Mrs Allison

## **Pine & Hawthorn**

In Year 5 this week, we have finished off our piece of English writing where we re-wrote a narrative scene between Odysseus and the cyclops. We concentrated on using correct punctuation and upgrading our vocabulary, with the children independently editing and checking their work to finish. We have also completed our recent Maths learning journey around converting units of measurement. A big well done to the children for powering through what is quite a tricky subject. Finally, a big well done to the children on their transition days, their new teachers (as well as Mr Childs!) were full of praise for their maturity with the Year 4's and their genuine interest in getting to know the new children in their classroom. Well done to all the children this week and we are looking forward to our school trips next week and the week after!

Mr Dookheran & Mr Childs

## **Aspen & Juniper**

Another busy week for Year 6! Many students had their transition day on Tuesday at their prospective secondary schools. They returned to school on Wednesday, excited to share the taster lessons they experienced, the new faces they met and the teachers they learnt from. Such a valuable experience for them all, which hopefully helped to settle some of their apprehensions as well. To further support their transition to secondary school, Y6 had a lesson delivered by the Hampshire Mental Health Support Team recently, all focussed on managing the worries of transition. We have also taken the time to discuss transition scenarios, and strategies for dealing with them, in PSHE. We practised for Sports Day in PE this week. The children worked brilliantly together in their House teams, showing amazing support and encouragement for each other. Our production of 'School of Pop' is really starting to come together now and the children are so excited to share it the week after next. A reminder that all costumes should be in school by Monday...

Mrs Cocks, Miss Howick & Mrs Featherstone

## ***INSET days 2025/26***

I would like to give you advance notice of the INSET days for the next academic year. The dates we have chosen best facilitate the in-service training that the staff need. I hope that it is useful for you to have these now, in order for you to plan your diaries.

Wednesday 3rd September- children return to school on Thursday 4th

Friday 26th September

Friday 24th October

Monday 5th January- children return to school on Tuesday 6th

Friday 19th June

## *Scooters, cars and phones*

A few safety notices...

Firstly, can you please speak to your children about scooters? Once on the school site, **children should walk and push their** scooter, this applies to toddlers too, please.

Secondly, I received a message from a Picket Twenty resident: *I hoped it might be possible to send out a gentle reminder to parents collecting their children please? I am a resident on Picket Twenty and on multiple occasions have been involved and seen several near misses due to a car with the reg plate XXXX XXX being parked adjacent to the junction for Halter Way on yellow lines when there is plenty of safe parking available elsewhere. This is dangerous as we cannot see children crossing and are having to veer into a busy junction to pass.* If you park here, please consider parking elsewhere.

Lastly, Year 6 children are to **put their phones away** when they enter the school site. Please could you as parents/carers **not let your children use your mobile phone to play games when waiting for the start of the school day.** We want the school site to be phone-free, as there is no need to have them out when on school premises.

Thank you!



## *Safeguarding- hot weather*

Children can wear **PE kit on hot days**- please make sure that they are wearing correct kit, not logoed, non-school t-shirts.

Please make sure they have a **hat** and **plenty of water.** **Sun cream** needs to be applied & they can have spare cream in their bag to re-apply to themselves during the day.

## *Sports Day- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July*

Please join us for Sports Day on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July. Key Stage 1 will have a carousel of activities and races in the morning then Key Stage 2 in the afternoon.

We invite ALL FAMILIES to join us at lunchtime. Please bring packed lunch for all your family (school lunches are orderable, as usual too).

Children in Early Year & Key Stage 1 will be doing a full school day as usual, returning to school for learning in the afternoon.

Children in Key Stage 2 will have the chance to win points for their House- these will go towards an **overall winner of the Sports Day Cup!**

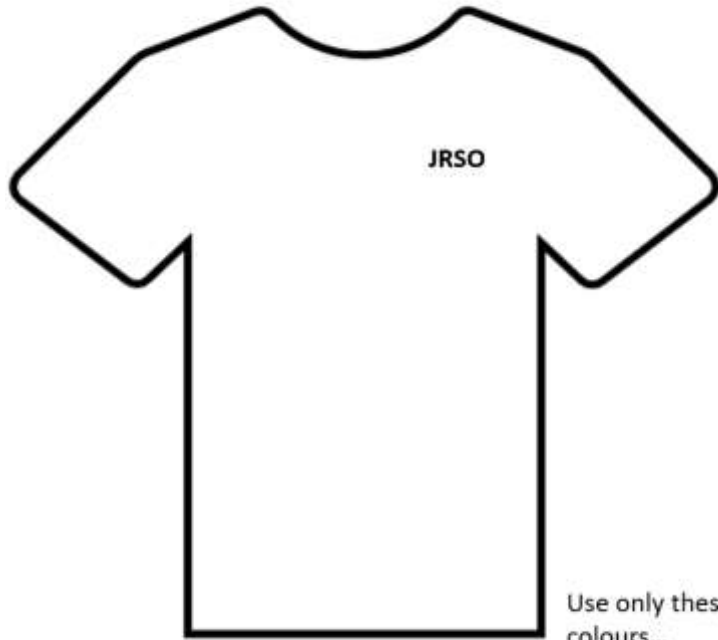
Please send your child to school in PE kit, with a t-shirt matching their House colour. Ideally, this would be non-logoed but if you only have a t-shirt in your child's house colour with a logo, that would be fine. **If you do not have the right coloured top, please send your child in their usual white PE top.**



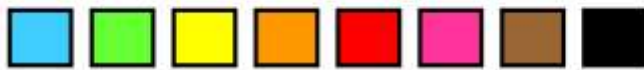
If the weather is not great on the day, we will reschedule this to the following Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> July.

## JRSO competition

Here is the latest Junior Road Safety Officer competition- this can be completed over the summer holidays! Our JRSOs are also keen to see the local area changed for the better. They are thinking about new initiatives to take into next academic year to continue to promote road safety and safer routes to school. Pupil voice is really important at Pilgrims' Cross and we want to continue to give our JRSOs the power to make a difference in and outside school.



Use only these colours...



### Design your own t-shirt!!

You produce your design on an actual t-shirt

- ✂ Make sure you add colour
- 📏 Make it relevant to road safety

📅 The competition starts today. Please submit your entries by 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025, ready for us to judge

🏆 Winners will be selected by the JRSOs and awarded 5 house points and a certificate

😊 Have fun!!



### LOLA'S EXAMPLE T-SHIRT



Please take your time with the designs- there's no rush! The deadline is **4<sup>th</sup> September!**



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### Attendance Treats!

Please see below the current scores for each class – remember that each class within its Key Stage will receive a treat if their class ends the Summer term with the highest attendance % - this treat will be decided by our School Council and could be either a dress down afternoon, sweet treat or extra play-time! (Please do note that those classes who have children with complex medical needs will be adjusted accordingly to keep things fair)

Willow	95.3%
Oak	93.7%
Maple	95.7%
Sycamore	96.4%
Hazel	94.6%
Lime	94.7%
Chestnut	96.2%
Elm	95.9%
Ash	94.3%
Beech	95.6%
Pine	95.8%
Hawthorn	97.4%
Aspen	97.1%
Juniper	95.1%

If you require any support with routines or wish to discuss any barriers that you need help with to improve your mornings please do get in touch with me on [familysupport@pilgrimscross.co.uk](mailto:familysupport@pilgrimscross.co.uk) and I will be very happy to chat. Mrs Hathaway

## Safeguarding- Apple iPads

Lots of us have iPads- please check that your children are safe by reading the guide below...

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APPLE IPADS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

## COSTLY TO REPAIR

Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling. Its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.

## DATA PRIVACY

While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.

## BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by adults.

## SCREEN ADDICTION

iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

## REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT

Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.

### FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES

Parental controls in iOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.

### USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY

Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device overuse. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework – while App Limits sets daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.

### PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING

Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including WIRED, Forbes, TechRadar, and Tes. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

## Holiday Club

Need a place for your child for some of the summer?

£10 whole week!

for kids in years R-6

St Mary's Church  
Andover SP10 1DP

LET'S GO  
TO THE JUNGLE!

Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri  
29th Jul - 1st Aug  
9am - 12:30pm

andoverparish.org/whats-on

HOLIDAY CLUB 2025

## Key dates

- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July- Year 5 (Pine) trip to Winchester Cathedral
- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July- Sports Day
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>- FOPS disco (for EYFS to Year 5)
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July- Year 6 leavers' disco
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July- Moving-up day 2
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Graduation @ The Lights 12pm
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July - Class Celebration: Year 5 @ 8.45am and Year 1 @ 2.15pm - Year 1
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July - Class Celebration: Year 3 @ 8.45am and Year R @ 2.15am
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Performance to Parents @ 6pm
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July – Class Celebration: Year 4 @ 8.45am and Year 2 @ 2.15pm
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July- Year 5 (Hawthorn) trip to Winchester Cathedral
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July- *Little Troopers*' Tea Party
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Year 6 Leavers' Worship – 1.45pm
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July- non-uniform Hawaiian summer day
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September- INSET day 1
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September- INSET day 2
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October- INSET day 3
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026- INSET day 4
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026- INSET day 5

Please check out our website calendar for all relevant dates:

<https://www.pilgrimscross.co.uk/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8&pid=8&viewid=1>